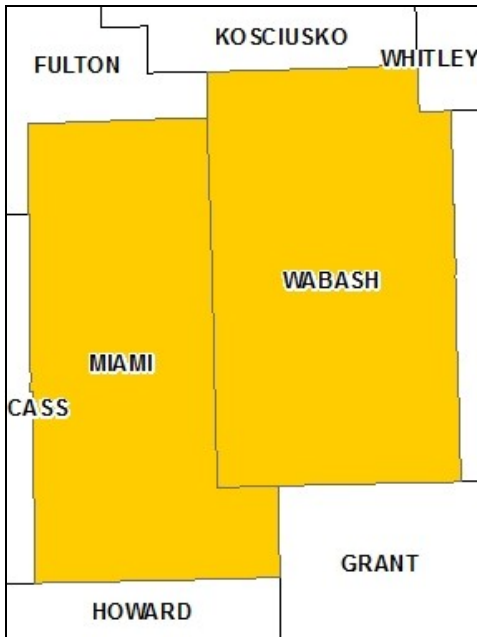




2015 Clean Water Indiana Grant Program

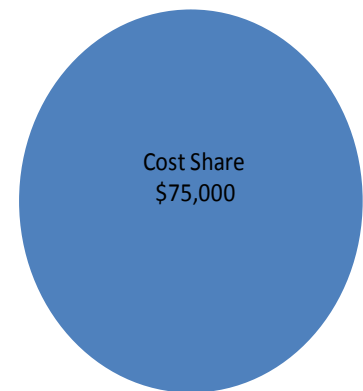
Indiana State Department of Agriculture
One North Capitol Ave, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204
www.in.gov/isda



Purpose: Expand cost share opportunities in the Wabash River Watershed

The Miami and Wabash County SWCDs will focus efforts of this CWI Grant on application of fall cover crops with an emphasis on soil health. Research suggests there are multiple benefits to farmers such as higher organic matter content, improved weed suppression, and increased water infiltration. From a water quality perspective, it is believed cover crops reduce wind and water erosion, decreasing the export of soil and nutrients to streams. Roots from cover crops remove nutrients that are left in the soil that a cash crop did not use and store them for next year's crop. Without cover crops those nutrients and top soil are exposed to wind and water erosion. The linkage between fall cover crops and other conservation practices clearly have the potential to help improve profitability for the producer and improve water quality. Making this connection is vital in an effort to help producers transition from more conventional farming practices that are known to result in loss of soil and nutrients.

PARTNERS FOR THE PROJECT INCLUDE:
CCSI, NORTH MIAMI FFA, FSA, DNR,
WABASH AND MIAMI COUNTY PURDUE
EXTENSION OFFICES, AND WABASH RIVER
DEFENDERS



North Miami FFA will aid the districts in creating a demonstration cover crop plot to use for a field day..

LEAD DISTRICT: WABASH
COLLABORATING DISTRICTS: MIAMI
PROJECT NAME: COVER CROP COST-SHARE PROGRAM IN THE MIAMI AND WABASH COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
PROJECT DATES: 5/1/2015-4/30/2017
PROJECT AMOUNT: \$75,000

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. The financial assistance supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs.

The CWI fund is administered by the Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects through Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. CWI also contributes critical state matching funds for Indiana's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, an initiative which utilizes federal funds to encourage landowners to conserve environmentally sensitive land.

Furthermore, the CWI Program has supported the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative which focuses on management systems approach to crop production which results in improved soil and water quality as well as profitability on Indiana cropland.

During state fiscal year 2015, the State Soil Conservation Board awarded 14 Clean Water Indiana grants totaling \$1,020,900. Grant funds can be used for Cost Share Incentives, Technical Assistance, and Adult Education (maximum of \$1,000 per year).